



1884-01-30

## Letter from Joanna [Muir Brown] to Sister Mary [Muir Hand], 1884 Jan 30.

Joanna Muir Brown

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Don't write and I will and I will and I will as they call it. I will as they call it.

To think of it, I think it depends  
some on how people live, and  
in what part of the city, and  
about along the river, and  
in how places it is unhealthful  
but we have a splendid loca-  
tion in that respect.

Now I suppose you are  
smiling at yourself at all  
my long story and I suppose  
it is all for nothing but I  
somehow felt compelled  
to write what I have.

So little Whelan is pretty well  
again how glad I am. My  
heart always warms at the  
mention of him. I hope you  
will manage to build up again  
soon. Did I tell you what a  
time Walter had with Quirk last  
winter, or Carbone's I would say.  
They come one after another on the  
duck of his neck right where his  
collar ought to be, and he has  
he suffled, he grew thin and white  
and had to go with his head down. But  
just all the time that he must be at  
the office if it killed him. And this  
was when he was having his hardest  
all financially, and by the way he  
had a very bad fever then too. Besides  
that to do chores and help me with  
the work some, father too had to go out  
on as you remember he was sick, &  
I guess he could sympathize with  
Willis now, or Willis with him. He  
has had very good health since then.  
Will you certainly have had plenty of  
help through all your trouble, which  
is something to be thankful for.

My girl is pretty near well just now  
and I do not know but that she  
will have to go home. I guess  
Ethel is well too now, just started  
out she is so busy it has taken her a long  
time. My dear I shall be very anxious  
to hear a word occasionally.

Father is very well but  
almost altogether in bed  
on account of a cold  
and I think  
He will have to  
go and stay at  
home I believe he  
is but not all  
of them.

(25)

Kansas City Mo.  
Jan 20. 1884.

Dear Sister Mary:

Your letter came  
today and had I allowed my-  
self to entertain any unkind  
thoughts about your long delay  
I would certainly reproach  
myself severely now that I  
know the cause. But I felt  
there must be a reason or  
tried to think of all the  
time and when I wrote the  
postal it was only because  
I could not help it.

But dear! dear! what can  
I say to express my sym-  
pathy in all your weary  
watching and awaiting

sickness too, I never had such  
a complexity of trouble of  
that kind but I have had  
all my strength would bear  
and as I know what it is.

Oh if you only were where  
I could see you sometimes.  
So you know I have concluded  
that after all Phillips is  
not a healthy place, it is  
too damp, and oh if I only  
dared to advise you to come  
here, I do not think it wise  
ever to try to influence any  
one to change location but  
in spite of my better renal  
what do you suppose I did  
as soon as I had read  
your letter, I put on my  
things and went to a neighbor  
whose husband is a lawyer  
and who came two more

than a year ago, to enquire what  
was the prospect for a law  
yer to get started here and  
how they liked the place.  
She said her husband was  
both sick and discouraged  
at first but that he was  
getting started now and was  
improving in health (he had  
not even well) and considered  
it quite as good a place as  
he could have found.

We all have to expect a good  
deal of pressure at first set-  
ting in a new place, a great deal  
of outgo and no income. But they  
consider that the city increases in  
population at the rate of about  
a hundred a day, I think,  
as to health, I have watched most  
suspiciously for symptoms of  
malaria but as far as our own  
family is concerned none has ap-  
peared and I think I continue  
to improve in health and cer-  
tainly I could not ask to have  
it be any better to be getting  
still many think they must take  
just about as much quinine  
every little while to keep in  
order. As I hardly know what